

In the Claims:

- 1.(original) A liquid water-softening composition comprising:
  - a) at least one water-softening active; and
  - b) an organic solvent;said composition containing less than 35 wt% water.
- 2.(original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the at least one water-softening active is an acid.
- 3.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the at least one water-softening active is a carboxylic acid.
- 4.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~ wherein the acid is partly neutralised.
- 5.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein at least one water-softening active is a water-softening polymer.
- 6.(original) A composition according to claim 5 wherein the water-softening polymer is a polycarboxylic acid polymer
- 7.(original) A composition according to claim 6 wherein the polycarboxylic acid polymer is a polyacrylic polymer.
- 8.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the acid water-softening active is partly neutralised by an organic base.
- 9.(original) A composition according to claim 8 wherein the acid water-

softening active that is neutralised is citric acid.

- 10.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~ wherein the organic base is an alkanolamine.
- 11.(original) A composition according to claim 10 in which the alkanolamine is monoethanolamine, diethanolamine or triethanolamine.
- 12.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the organic solvent is a glycol, glycolether glycerine, or an alcohol or a mixture thereof.
- 13.(original) A composition according to claim 12 wherein the organic solvent is polyethylene glycol, glycerine, monopropylene glycol or ethanol.
14. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ which contains less than 15wt% of free water.
- 15.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ that is anhydrous.
- 16.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ which comprises from 10 to 70 wt% of organic solvent.
- 17.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ which has a pH when measured as a 5%wt solution in deionised water at 20°C of less than 9, ~~ideally 4.0 to 6.0~~.
- 18.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ which contains a monomeric polycarboxylic acid.

- 19.(currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ which has a viscosity of 500 to 1,000,000cps measured using a Brookfield viscometer with spindle S31 at 12 RPM and 20°C.
- 20.(original) A composition according to claim 18 wherein the monomeric polycarboxylic acid is citric acid.
- 21.(currently amended) A water-soluble container containing a composition according to claim 1 ~~as defined in any one of the preceding claims~~.
- 22.(original) A water-soluble container containing a liquid water-softening composition comprising:  
a) at least one water-softening active;  
b) an organic solvent;  
c) an electrolyte; and  
said composition containing greater than 35 wt% water.
- 23.(currently amended) A container according to claim 19 ~~or claim 20~~ which comprises a thermoformed or injection moulded water-soluble polymer.
- 24.(currently amended) A container according to claim 21 ~~any one of claims 21 to 23~~ wherein the water-soluble polymer is a poly (vinyl alcohol) or gelatin.